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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/07/07

SPONSOR Picraux LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 574

SHORT TITLE Sex Offender Therapist Training SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Geisler

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$150.0	Recurring	General

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 166

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

### Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)  
Children, Youth & Families Department (CYFD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 574 would appropriate \$150,000 from the general fund to the Department of Health (DOH) to fund adolescent sex offender therapy training and certification for therapists who provide services to entities funded by DOH including community mental health centers, rape crisis centers, youth violence prevention agencies and similar organizations in Native American communities. Funds would be used for travel, tuition and training and certification costs for those therapists who have contracted with DOH to continue to provide their services for a period of one year following certification. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year 2008 shall revert to the general fund.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

DOH notes that the appropriation in HB 574 is not included in the FY08 executive budget request for DOH.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

DOH notes training for therapist in the field specific to sex-offender training is highly needed and necessary to deal with on-going and growing problem.

Sexual violence is a serious problem in New Mexico. Research from the National Violence Against Women Prevention Research Center (NVAWPRC) suggests that 19% of New Mexican adult women have been raped at least once during their lifetime. This rate places New Mexico 9th in the nation for lifetime prevalence of rape among adult women in the US. Unpublished results from the Statewide Survey of Victimization in New Mexico in 2006 found that 24% of females and 5% of males have been victims of completed or attempted rapes in 2005. Survey results also showed that 33% of all adult women and 7% of adult men (18 and older) in New Mexico have been victims of completed or attempted rape sometime in their life.

CYFD notes that national research indicates that the rate of sexual assaults committed by youth is increasing, with current estimates that a fifth of all rapes and half of all molestations nationwide are committed by youth ages 13-17. The development of specialized therapists trained to treat sex offenders – including therapists who specialize in working with youth - is an increasingly important need in the behavioral health system.

**RELATIONSHIP**

HB 574 relates to HB 166 which would appropriate \$150,000 to the Department of Health to provide funding for a two-week training course for 60 therapists working in community mental health centers, rape crisis centers, youth violence prevention agencies, agencies providing adolescent sex offender therapy and similar agencies in the Native American community.

GG/sb